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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Note verbale dated 19 February 1993 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Centre for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva presents its compliments to the Centre for Human Rights and has the honour to enclose herewith a memorandum related to the serious violations of human rights to which the entire population of Iraq is subjected as a result of the continuation of the economic blockade of Iraq, which constitutes a flagrant violation of human rights in living and purposeful disregard of the principle of correlation between man's civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights.

The Mission would be grateful if the Centre kindly regard this note as an official document of the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth session under agenda items 12 and 24.

The Mission wishes to enclose herewith the aforementioned document in Arabic, English and French, and hopes that it is published at present in these three languages with a view to circulating them during the discussion of the two aforementioned items.

Annex

Document presented by the Iraqi Delegation
before the forty-ninth session of the Commission
on Human Rights under agenda items 12 and 24

Iraq would like to draw the attention of the Commission on Human Rights to the serious violations of Iraqi human rights, as a consequence of the continuation of the economic blockade, proceeding from the principle of correlation between the civil, political, social and cultural human rights, as underlined by the UN resolution, the last of which being the General Assembly resolution no. 47/137.

A simple review of the figures listed in this document will undoubtedly clarify the systematic violations of the right of th Iraqi individual in living, as a result of serious shortage of food and medicine- an issue that constitutes a contribution in committing real crime of genocide.

We trust that this document will serve as a starting point for the Commission on Human Rights to shoulder its responsibilities in putting an end to these violations that are practised in the name of the International Community and International Law.

1. Effects of the economic blockade on the therapeutic services for patients and on medicine.

A. Therapeutic and diagnostic services were largely affected due to the economic blockade, as a result of the shortages in medicines and other medical requirements such as equipment, X-ray film, laboratory equipment. It is noteworthy that 90 percent of the existing equipment are out of order due to shortage of spare parts. All this has led to inferior level of therapeuric services, which was negatively reflected on the patient and led to a huge number of mortalities, where upon (98669) patients died up to 1991, and the occupied beds and those prepared to receive patients fell by 50% than that before 02/08/1990. Despite the adoption of the Security Council and Compensation Committee resolution that permit Iraq to use its frozen assets in world banks for the purchase of medicine and food. yet, most of the countries keeping such assets did not allow their banks to accept the credits which were opened by the Central Bank of Iraq for the purchase of medicines and medical requirements, whose value for 1991 alone amounted to approximately US$ 265. (Iraq imported US$ 600 worth of medicines annually before the Gulf war). In consequence the balance of medical material declined in such a manner that huge numbers of mortalities fell victim to this economic blockade.

B. The economic blockade resulted in halting all shipments of medicines and medical requirements which were contracted between the international manufacturers and the Iraqi Ministry of Health prior to 02/08/1990. Part payments of these medical purchases were been remitted in advance to the supplier before 02/08/1990 but they were not delivered, which contributed largely to the shortages.

C. The Coalition aggression and the subsequent acts of rioting inflicted gross damage on the buildings and properties of the medical institutions as a result of the hostile bombardment. The damaged institutions amounted to (429) hospitals and health centres, equal in value to 250 million Iraqi Dinars, equivalent to US$ 750 millions. The damage included buildings, medicines, medical and service equipment, ambulance automobiles, other medical service vehicles, medical furniture and other vasic medical equipment.

The aggression also inflicted damage on the basis infrastructures related to the improvement of environment, including sewer projects and purification of waste water plants, resulting in the spread of epidemics and diseases such as Cholera, Typhoid, Malaria and Dyzantry... etc. The estimated value of combating these diseases amounted to approx. US$ 120 millions.

2. Figures on the rate of children in Iraq's society and the risks of future effects posed by the blockade.

No demonstration of serious effects of the economic blockade on the Iraqi society can be objective unless supported by statistics on child rate in the Iraqi society in order to be able to perceive the danger posed by the economic blockade on the society as a result of children malnutrition and rising mortalities among them.

Estimated no. of Iraqi children according to age category for the years 1987-1995.

Age Category	1987		1992		1995	
	No. of children	%	No. of children	%	No. of children	%
0-1	566447	3.5	736000	3.9	775000	3.9
1-4	2198386	13.5	2208000	12.0	2325000	11.9
5-9	2468250	15.1	2688000	14.6	2777000	13.9
10-14	2148409	13.2	2462000	13.4	2616000	13.1
Total	7381492	45.3	8094000	43.9	8493000	42.5
Tctal Iraq population	16335199		18422000		19997000	

It is concluded from the estimated table above that the rate of of children in the Iraqi society accounts for a high rate compared to other countries. The rate amounts to approximately half of the countries population. When this huge part of the society is inflicted with malnutrition and growing mortality rates it clearly demonstrates the intentional designs to annihilate the growth of the Iraqi society. By further adding to the children rate of 43.9% the elderly rate of 5.5% of Iraq, along with the rate of women over 15 years amounting to 28% of Iraq's population, the total rate of children, women and the elderly amounts to 77% of the population. This total rate provides a clear picture of the extent of the serious future damage inflicted on the population of Iraq as a result of the blockade, particularly, women, elderly and children. This is a situation asserting the intention of those countries, that insists on the continuation of the blockade, of committing a genocide crime against the people

of Iraq as defined in the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide Crimes of 1948.

Effects of the economic blockade on the nutritional conditions of Iraqi children below the age of 5 years.

Type of condition	1990		1991		1992			
	no. of conditions	monthly average	no. of cases conditions	monthly average	times increase from 1990	no. of conditions Dec-June	monthly average Dec-June	times increase from 1990
malnutrition	485	41	12796	1066	26	6730	1122	27.3
emaciation due to malnutrition	5139	433	96186	8015	18.5	53363	8894	20.5
other types of malnutrition (deficiency, albumin, calories, vitamins)	96809	8067	947974	78998	9.8	539955	89992	11.15
Total conditions	102487	8541	1056956	88079	10.3	600048	100008	11.7

3. Effects of the economic blockade on prices and standard of living.

Iraq is an oil producing country, whose ecomomic structure was built dependant on imports that have played a decisive rile in securing the requisited of economic balance.

The blockade targeted, in a direct manner, the prevention of Iraq from exports, with a view of denying it the foreign currency revenues, as well as freezing its assets abroad and depriving it from receiving loans, credit and facilities for the Iraqi private and state organizations, thus, rendering Iraq unable to import due to the non-existence of financing resources, to such extent as to deprive it from benefitting from the facilities allowed by the Security Council for the importation of foodstuffs and medicine.

The GDP has decreased by nearly 54% for all the sectors in 1991, compared to 1990. This decrease is not only linked to the halting of exports, such as oil, phoshate and sulphur, but as a result of the significant shortage of raw and semi-manufactured material which Iraq counts for their imports from abroad. For the same reason, the capabilities of building and construction became limited. It is expected that such drawback of the 1992 production activity will continue, with the continuation of deferred demand on replacement, causing maintenance and spareparts for the different types of equipment and transport means.

The local production fulfils only a tiny part of the demand. All efforts made to increase the production collide with the blockade obstacles. Agriculture in itself requires imported seeds, and local fertilizers are insufficient to cover the requirements of the agricultural production increase. Moreover, the machinery, tools and spareparts required by agriculture cannot be provided locally and are easily subject to breakdowns.

On the foregoing basis, it is expected that the food gap, especially the grain will remain widened. Moreover, and due to shortage of fodder and veterinares requirements, the animal production has plunged deeply. White meat production witnessed a decrease from 2.1 million tons in 1990 to 0.33 million tons in 1991. Table egg production also declined from 1631 to 399 million eggs for the same period.

The decline in the production activities level has also increased unemployment among new graduates and decreased work opportunities in general and for women in particular. The logical result for the decline of import and domestic production is the sharp reduction of the offered commodities which inevitably leads to a continuous rise in general price level, hence the rise of speculation, which in turn contributes actively to spiraling inflation. It is not noteworthy that halting foreign currency flow to Iraq and the freezing of its assets have rendered the competent authorities imcapable of interfering in the exchange market, leaving the foreign exchange rates to sky-rocket in an imaginary manner against deep-plunging of the Iraqi dinar's value. Therefore, the inflationary waves have always started with the prices of imported commodities and their local alternatives to encompass the whole economy, only to serve once more the increase of demand for the foreign currency in the exchange market and to re-feed the vicious circle of inflation.

The prices of basic commodities have become far beyond the reach of most of the Iraqi families, particularly those of limited or semi-limited incomes. This can be well perceived when examining the following up-to-date table of basic commodities prices and compare it to a college graduate who receives a starting salary of about 165 Iraqi dinars.

PRICE IN IRAQI DINARS

Commodity		June 90	Dec. 92	Increase
Mutton	1 kg	7.0	75	1000%
Chicken	1 kg	2.4	60	2500%
30 Eggs		2.5	50	1016%
Powder milk	1 kg	4.5	250	5000%
Tomato paste	1 kg	4.3	15.8	367%
Tea	1 kg	2	80	4000%
Sugar	1 kg	0.4	12	3000%
Wheat flour	1 kg	0.1	8	8000%
Gas cooker		204	4800	2300%
Car battery		22.5	1000	4500%
Car tire		21.9	2000	9000%
Cotton cloth		3.2	30.4	637%
Air cooler		145	5000	3500%

One can imagine the extent of the Iraqi individual's suffering with the living requirements. The prices shown in the above table are largely typical. The prices of certain commodities increased in a sharper pattern. For example, the rear tire of a medium size agricultural tractor costs about 150ID in June 1990. Now its price has exeeded 5000ID. Prices of certified seeds increased in a similar pattern, perhaps more. Inflation has its effects on production costs. Thus the state has been obliged to increase the price of purchasing agricultural crops at similar rates in order to maintain production incentives.

The rationing voucher system (state distribution) has contributed in providing minimum level of sufficient food-stuffs at the prices prevailing prior to the blockade. Similars, costs of electricity, medicine, purified water and petroleum products remained without increase. The Iraqi society would, otherwise, have suffered total collapse.

Even so, the general average of consumer prices and that of food stuffs reached in July 1992, 508% and 614% respectively compared with 1990, which demonstrates the intensity of the negative effects of the blockade, despite the states efforts to maintain the variety of the aforementioned commodities and services.

It is worthwile to say that payment of workers salaries and wages from the national ecomomy as a whole increased in 1991 by 32.6% compared to 1990, while the general average of consumer prices increased by 255% for the same year. This means that the real purchasing power for the total salaries and wages decreased by 65% for that year alone. Thus we can imagine the extent of suffering in the last quarter of 1992, and how conditions will develop under the continued blockade.

4. Losses inflicted on facilities.

The economic blockade imposed upon Iraq since August 1990 has directly affected all sectors of Iraq's economy. The most severe losses were the virtual or partial breakdown in the facilities and operating them at higher costs, as well as discontinuation of oil exports and oil products imports and interests accrued on foreign loans and investments, together with the delay in the execution of the development plan projects. Total losses for the period 01/03/1991-01/04/1992 amounted to 12460076392 ID (1 Iraqi dinar = US$ 3.280) as illustrated in the following tables:

Losses incurred due to the blockade
1.3.1991-1.4.1992
Table no. 1

Complete breakdown of facilities

Iraqi Dinars

	Source of loss	1.3.91-1.1.92	1.1.92-1.4.92	
1-	Salaries and wages paid	200 996 413	32 920 269	233 916 682
2-	Interests paid	3 635 812	1 932 436	5 568 248
3-	Rent	1 300 229	742 086	2 042 315
4-	Depreciation	124 011 841	16 244 062	140 255 903
5-	Maintenance	28 662 827	8 530 939	37 193 766
6-	Other expenses	58 338 162	11 035 396	69 373 558
7-	Profit	307 231 860	44 088 779	351 320 639
	TOTAL	724 177 144	115 493 967	839 671 111

Losses incurred due to the blockade

1.3.1991-1.4.1992

Table no. 2

Partial breakdown of facilities

Source of loss	1.3.91-1.1.92	1.1.92-1.4.92	1.3.91-1.4.92
Difference in revenues	1 776 970 552	643 891 363	2 420 861 915

Losses incurred due to the
economic blockade
1.3.1991-1.4.1992
Table no. 3

Operation costs more

Iraqi Dinars

	Source of loss	1.3.91-1.1.92	1.1.92-1.4.92	1.3.91-1.4.92
1-	Increase in prices of production requirements	129 197 871	200 305 268	329 503 139
2-	Increase in wages	51 172 811	17 799 187	68 971 998
3-	Other expenses	59 010 556	8 455 539	67 466 095
	TOTAL	239 381 238	226 559 994	456 941 232

Losses incurred due to the
economic blockade
1.3.1991-1.4.1992
Table no. 4

Crude oil and imports of oil products.

Iraqi Dinars

	Source of loss	1.3.91-1.1.92	1.1.92-1.4.92	1.3.92-1.4.92
1-	Discontinuation of crude oil exports	6 034 775 962	1 783 885 308	7 818 661 270
2-	Cost of importing oil products	3 456 183	-	3 456 183
	TOTAL	6 038 232 145	1 783 885 308	7 822 117 453

Losses incurred due to the
economic blockade
Table no. 5

Interests accrued on foreign loans and investments

Iraqi Dinars

	Origin of loss	1.1.91-1.3.92	1.1.92-1.4.92	1.3.91-1.4.92
1-	interests on loans	91 837 330	24 952 728	116 790 058
2-	interests on deferred payments	37 570 689	21 686 430	59 257 119
3-	interests accrued due to non-marketing of oil	3 190 878	1 146 699	4 337 577
4-	interests and delay interests due on credits	18 281 045	1 142 822	9 423 867
5-	interests on foreign investments	44 346 136	15 698 114	60 044 250
	TOTAL	195 226 078	64 626 193	259 852 871